

Bliss a "Blackmailer?" Never!

Mr. Archibald testified that Cornelius N. Bliss, who is dead, attempted to blackmail him and that he knew of it. I don't for a minute believe Mr. Bliss tried to blackmail him; if he did, I knew nothing of it." Roosevelt in testimony to-day.

had amounted to \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, or should be driven out of public life."

Roosevelt sprung another sensation when, in a voice that vibrated with emphasis, he asserted that he had "Never asked Mr. Harriman directly or indirectly for a dollar to help in the 1904 campaign, or in any other."

He asserted that far from there being any request being made of Harriman for a contribution, the railroad king had been the one who solicited Roosevelt's aid in getting the National Committee to apportion more of its funds to help out the Republican gubernatorial candidate in New York, Gov. Higgins.

Col. Roosevelt also complained that Charles D. Hilles, National Republican Chairman, and Congressman Bartholdt, who have been quoted as saying that the Progressives spent \$3,000,000 to try to nominate Roosevelt, should be summoned before the committee and required either to make good and apologize or else be driven out of public life."

He also demanded that Charles P. Taft, the President's brother, be summoned to testify.

There was very little questioning of the former President. Mostly he struck out for himself and the committee let him go ahead. His testimony was illuminated by picturesque phrases of his vocabulary, given in the typical Rooseveltian staccato.

CROWD JAMMED COMMITTEE ROOM.

With Roosevelt as the star attraction, the committee room was crowded long before 10 o'clock, the time set for the hearing. Crowds stood in the hall and outside the Senate office building to get a glimpse of the Progressive candidate. A tumultuous session was expected. In his campaign speeches Roosevelt promised to unlimber his heaviest artillery against the Standard Oil and other Wall street factions, which, he says, are bitterly opposing him in his present campaign, and against Senator Penrose and John D. Archibald, for what he charged was a "frame up."

Technically, his testimony was to supplement his letter written to Senator Clapp, in which he denied knowledge that the Standard Oil contributed any money to his 1904 campaign, and in which he declared his campaign managers had specific instructions to return any such donations.

Women were in the majority in the crowd that was so dense around the committee's door that the Senators themselves had difficulty forcing their way in. A group of suffragettes with "Votes for Women" badges were a conspicuous feature of the crowd. They were unable to get seats, but cheered the Colonel when he arrived.

The Colonel was nearly fifteen minutes ahead of time. He went into Senator Clapp's office and was soon in earnest consultation with Senator Penrose, with his arm on the Ohio Senator's shoulder.

Sensor Clapp administered the oath, and the crowd cheered when he took his place in the witness chair.

"Colonel, you were a candidate in 1904?" asked Senator Clapp.

"I was," was the reply. The Colonel sat at rigid attention, his body inclined slightly forward.

Sensor Clapp called the witness' attention to John D. Archibald's testimony regarding the \$100,000 Standard Oil Company donation.

"State what you know of that contribution, whether it was either asked for or made?" asked Senator Clapp.

"Mr. Chairman, may I treat the letter I sent you as part of my answer?" asked the witness.

"Certainly," said Mr. Clapp.

The Colonel smiled and went on, relaxing a little:

"I have two or three things to add to that letter. In the first place, since I was elected Governor of New York I have written and signed 100,000 letters, so it is not possible at once to remember all of the letters I wrote on any subject. Looking through my press books, I find two other letters regarding campaign contributions. One was the letter to Mr. Bliss already printed. The other was a letter to Mr. Sheldon in 1908."

READS LETTER TO SHELDON OF 1908.

Here the Colonel asked for his letter books from his secretary. He gave his testimony deliberately, choosing his words carefully and "shooting them out" in the accustomed Rooseveltian explosiveness. He walked to the committee table and stood up to hand the letter to Senator Clapp—also his copy book.

"The letter explains itself," he said. "It reads:

"Sept. 21, 1908. 'I have been informed that some one in your behalf has requested contributions both from Mr. Archibald and Mr. Harriman. 'If this is true, I enter protest. If true, they should be returned. 'I protest most earnestly against any money being taken from me which may be presented by the Attorney-General. 'If I tendered they should be refused. 'I am not the candidate, but I protest most earnestly to the apportionment of funds from persons whom we are prosecuting. For years ago, I am informed, Mr. Cortelyou returned money received from those who were being prosecuted. I told him to return any such money!'"

The witness then read his letter to Cortelyou in 1904, directing the return of Standard Oil money, which has been published.

"I also said," continued Col. Roosevelt, "that in 1904 I sent an extra telegram, on Oct. 27, 1904, to Mr. Cortelyou, as follows:

"I greatly desire that the request contained in my letter of yesterday be complied with."

The Colonel began to perspire in the heat of the close room. His face became florid, and beads of perspiration trickled down his forehead. But he was too busy to wipe them off. However, he drank copiously of water between questions.

Col. Roosevelt declared that he could not find any other letters in a hurried search through his press copy books that bore on Standard Oil contributions. He said it was possible that there might be some letter relating to the subject that had been forgotten or filed in such a way that it was not apparent that it contained any such reference.

"Mr. Loeb has searched the files carefully," the Colonel declared, "but cannot find any other letters. He remembered the Bliss letter when I had forgotten about it."

ONLY DEAD MEN QUOTED IN ACCUSATIONS.

"Now, regarding the Harriman fund?" asked Mr. Clapp.

"I would like to take up the charges as they were made, in succession," said the witness. "In the first place, there is no testimony against me except in the form of hearsay evidence, the quoted words of men who are dead. Mr. Archibald and Mr. Penrose gave what purports to be statements of Mr. Bliss, who is dead."

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COLONEL ROOSEVELT EXPLAINS THAT \$240,000 HARRIMAN FUND.

"There is not a shred of truth in Harriman's statement. I never asked Harriman, directly or indirectly, for a dollar. The word 'practical' had reference to Harriman's reluctance to come and see me because he felt my feelings might be hurt. His request was made to me that I should help him get money from the National Committee."

"I turned to Mr. Loeb and asked him to call up Mr. Bliss or Mr. Cortelyou and say what Harriman had said. I suggested that he ask if it wouldn't be possible to help Harriman out. Harriman said he had borne so much of the expense he couldn't bear any more. I was told that they would see what could be done."

"There was not one word spoken having any reference to any collection of funds for the national campaign. On the contrary, the request was from Mr. Harriman to help him out in the State campaign."

"Mr. Loeb told me the Republican campaign was running badly and that Mr. Harriman wished to see me. I saw Mr. Harriman at Mr. Harriman's request, made through Mr. Loeb, who was present during all or most of the interview."

"At that time every one knew that I was certain to carry New York. There was doubt about Higgins. Mr. Harriman stated that he had to have more money for that campaign and that I would have to ask Cortelyou or Bliss to help him out."

And Harriman went out and raised \$240,000—which "changed 50,000 votes in New York State."

"And more than that, if I have anything to ask Mr. Rockefeller or Mr. Gompers or Mr. Mitchell or F. W. Morgan, I'll send for them myself and ask them about it if it's for the public service."

"It happens I didn't ever send for any representative of the Standard Oil Company, but there were plenty of trust magnates and railroad kings for whom I sent."

"I remember sending for J. Martin Huggitt when he wanted to see me. I sent for Jim Hill at the time of a Congressional campaign, and he delivered an address in the White House. I think I sent for Mr. Morgan. I certainly saw him with reference to currency legislation."

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Mr. Harriman's Letter to Sidney Webster:

"He (the President) sent me a request to go to Washington. I complied and he told me he understood the campaign could not be successfully carried on without sufficient money, and asked if I would not help him in raising the necessary funds, as the National Committee under control of Cortelyou had failed. I explained that if Dewey could be taken care of in some way matters could be adjusted. He agreed that if found necessary he would appoint Dewey Ambassador to France, with full belief that he (Roosevelt) would keep his agreement. I sent for Bliss, who told me that I was his last hope. The checks were given to Treasurer Bliss, who took them to Cortelyou."

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